

under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(c) for a three-month extension of time.

In response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2000, Paper No. 19, please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims

Cancel claims 40 and 42.

Please amend claims 13, 27, 29, 33, 34, 38 and 44, as follows:

13. (3X Amended) An indwelling catheter comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough;
and

an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;

wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises a polymer in which a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed [in intimate contact], the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent being present in a concentration of between .1% and 5% of the steroidal agent in the polymer (w/w).

27. (3X Amended) A method of modulating tissue encapsulation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:

an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and

an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;

wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises an overcoating of a polymer in which a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed[incorporated] at a concentration of between .1% and 5% of the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent in the polymer (w/w).

29. (3X Amended) A method of modulating degradation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:

an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and

an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;

wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises a polymer intimately mixed [in intimate contact] with a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent and wherein the solid weight of the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is between .1% and 5% of the total solid combined weight of the polymer and the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent.

33. (3X Amended) A method of making an indwelling catheter comprising:

providing an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; wherein the tissue-contacting surface comprises an overcoat of a polymer intimately mixed with[in which] a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent [is incorporated] at a concentration of between .1% and 5% of the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent in the polymer (w/w); and

coupling an external fitting to the proximal end of the elongate body.

34. (2X Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of providing an elongate body comprises intimately mixing the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent with the polymer in a solvent and applying the mixture to the elongate body to form a tissue-contacting surface.